

Serial No. 10/631,306

Atty Docket No.
5702-01043**REMARKS**

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 4-6 if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Relative to the examiner's comments, Applicant addresses the issues as presented by the examiner.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmucker et al. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claim 10 to further clarify the invention.

Schmucker et al. does not describe a housing with a base and a cap that form a non-threaded interference fit about the periphery of the base and the cap. Antecedent basis for the amendment is provided for throughout the specification, in the figures for example. Neither Schmucker nor any reference of record describes the same. Relative thereto, Applicant presents new claim 15 directed toward a gas generator formed by the method of claim 10.

In view of the above and the amendment made to claim 10, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) is traversed.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmucker et al in view of Hill. As given above, Schmucker et al. describes a threaded relationship between the cap and the base, but does not describe or suggest an alternative to fixing the base and the cap together, namely by interference fit about the periphery of the base and the cap. Hill does not resolve the deficiencies of Schmucker. In essence, neither Schmucker nor Hill, when taken alone or in combination, describes a gas generator having a base and a cap rotatably fixed to each other about the periphery of the base and the cap. A

Serial No. 10/631,306

Atty Docket No.
5702-01043

prima facie case of obviousness is not supported unless the limitations of the claims are described with particularity in either one or more of the cited references, and, unless the requisite suggestion to combine the references has been shown. The examiner has not shown why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine Schmucker with Hill for the combination of each reference would not result in the structure as presently claimed.

Claim 13 is rejected under under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmucker et al in view of Bornheim et al. For the same reasons as characterized in the remarks to the rejection of claim 10, herein incorporated by reference, Schmucker does not describe the present invention as claimed in claim 13. Bornheim does not resolve the deficiencies of Schmucker for Bornheim does not suggest or describe a gas generator having a base and a cap rotatably fixed to each other to form an interference fit about the periphery of the base and the cap. A prima facie case of obviousness is not supported unless the limitations of the claims are described with particularity in either one or more of the cited references. Applicant therefore traverses the rejection to claim 13.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernau et al ('852). Bernau et al. does not describe a gas generator having a plurality of protruding portions spaced along and integral to a cap peripheral edge. Nor does Bernau describe a gas generator having a plurality of hook members spaced about and integral with the base peripheral edge. Bernau instead describes a snap fit of the base and the cap as they are pressed together. See Col. 4, lines 37-42. Also note that the snap fit occurs in an annular region or inner area of the inflator, not about the periphery of the base and the cap as presently claimed in claims 2 and 3. See the figures (Fig. 2A for example) and see column 4, lines 57-60.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that Bernau does not sufficiently support a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide support for the Official Notice taken that it is known in the art that rotary bayonet connections include a

Serial No. 10/631,306

Atty Docket No.
5702-01043

plurality of such corresponding elements, and that along with the protrusions are corresponding recessed portions and that the connection works by aligning the hooks with the recessed portions, and then turning until the protrusions have been slidably engaged with the hooks.

For the reasons given, the rejections of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Bernau et al. is traversed.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernau et al. in view of Hill. For the reasons given relative to claims 2 and 3 above, herein incorporated by reference, Bernau does not describe the limitations of claim 7. Nor does Hill cure the deficiencies of Bernau et al. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 is also traversed. Applicant reserves further comment if necessary with regard to Hill in particular.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernau et al. in view of Bornheim et al. For the reasons given relative to claims 2 and 3 above, herein incorporated by reference, Bernau does not describe the limitations of claim 9. Nor does Bornheim et al. cure the deficiencies of Bernau et al. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 9 is also traversed. Applicant reserves further comment if necessary with regard to Bornheim in particular.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernau et al. in view of Schmucker et al. For the reasons given relative to claims 2 and 3 above, herein incorporated by reference, Bernau does not describe the limitations of claims 10 and 11. Nor does Schmucker et al. cure the deficiencies of Bernau et al. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 10 and 11 are also traversed. Applicant reserves further comment if necessary with regard to Schmucker in particular.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernau et al. in view of Halford et al. For the reasons given relative to claims 2 and 3 above, herein incorporated by reference, Bernau does not describe the limitations of claim 8. Nor does Halford et al. cure the deficiencies of Bernau et al. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 is also traversed. It should further be

Serial No. 10/631,306

Atty Docket No.
5702-01043

emphasized that Halford does not describe a plurality of grooves having a first and a second end where the arcuate length at the first end is greater than the arcuate length at the second end, and further, where the grooves are formed by inner walls of the plurality of hook members. Halford describe a plug (4) and a socket (5) that interlock together upon assembly, and nothing more. It should also be noted that the plug and socket of Halford are not on a corresponding respective base and cap. Applicant reserves further comment if necessary with regard to Halford in particular.

In sum, none of the cited references when taken alone or together describe with particularity a gas generator having a base and a cap fixed by a non-threaded interference fit about the periphery of the base and the cap. Because none of the references when taken alone or together describe with particularity the limitations of the claims as now drafted, the present rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 are not supported. Furthermore, none of the cited references provide the requisite suggestion or motivation to alter the respective means to fix the base to the cap. As such, present advantages such as simplified manufacturing and reduced costs are not addressed in the same manner. Furthermore, a prima facie case of obviousness is also not supported absent the requisite motivation to combine the references.

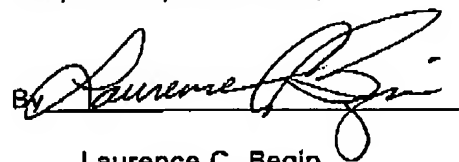
Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the standing rejections are respectfully traversed, and the allowance of the remaining claims and passage of the subject application to issue are courteously solicited. The Examiner's call to the undersigned is requested if it will assist in eliminating pending prosecutorial issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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